

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00

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R 241216Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8807

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: BBAK PFOR NL US

SUBJECT: LOCKHEED AND THE PRINCE

REF: THE HAGUE 4513

1. SUMMARY: DUTCH PUBLIC CONTINUES TO AWAIT NERVOUSLY THE DROPPING OF OTHER SHOE IN LOCKHEED CASE. PRESS REPORTS THAT PRINCE BERNHARD SAW DRAFT OF DONNER COMMISSION REPORT BEFORE IT GIVEN TO GON. PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL REAFFIRMS THAT PUBLISHED REPORT AND GOVERNMENT CONCLUSIONS ARE TO BE RELEASED SHORTLY. END SUMMARY.

2. A REPORT BY THE AMSTERDAM DAILY "HET PAROOL" THAT PRINCE BERNHARD HAD ACCESS TO THE DONNER COMMISSION REPORT IN DRAFT SOME MONTHS BEFORE IT WAS OFFICIALLY HANDED OVER TO QUEEN JULIANA AND PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL AND HAD ASKED FOR CHANGES AND DELETIONS HAS RAISED SOME DOUBTS FOR THE FIRST TIME ABOUT THE GON HANDLING OF THE INVESTIGATION. ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER
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STORY, PRINCE BERHARD RECEIVED DRAFT REPORT (WHICH IS DAID TO

RUN TO 70 PAGES PLUS APPENDICES) PRIOR TO SUMMER HOLIDAYS AND, IN CONSULTATION WITH HIS LAWYERS, PROPOSED A NUMBER OF CHANGES. REPORTEDLY, MOST WERE NOT ACCEPTED BY THE COMMISSION.

3. PRIMIN DEN UYL CAME IN FOR SOME SHARP QUESTIONING ABOUT THE STORY DURING HIS WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 20. DEN UYL CAREFULLY AVOIDED CONFIRMING OR DENYING "HET PAROOL" ACCOUNT, STICKING TO HIS EARLIER ANNOUNCEMENT THAT GON ONLY RECEIVED REPORT ON AUGUST 12. THUS, QUESTION OF GOVERNMENT ACCEDING TO PRINCE'S REQUEST FOR CHANGES IN REPORT DID NOT ARISE. HE SAID THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF WHAT PROCEDURES COMMISSION MIGHT HAVE FOLLOWED, BUT THAT IT MUST BE ASSUMED THAT DONNER COMMISSION DISCUSSED MATTER MORE THAN ONCE WITH PRINCE BERNHARD. DEN UYL DENIED ALLEGATION IN "HET PAROOL" STORY THAT DUTCH GOVERNMENT HAD ASKED DONNER COMMISSION TO POSTPONE COMPLETION OF ITS REPORT, STATING THAT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS HE HAD ASKED THAT PROCESS BE SPEEDED UP. DEN UYL SAID HE WAS LAUNCHING AN INVESTIGATION INTO OTHER ASPECTS OF NEWSPAPER REPORT. DEN UYL NOTED THAT HE SAID ON AUGUST 13 THAT REPORT WOULD PROBABLY BE PUBLISHED WITHIN TWO TO THREE WEEKS AND THAT HE SAW NO REASON AS YET TO ALTER THAT TIME FRAME. FULL CABINET SAW REPORT FOR FIRST TIME EVENING OF AUGUST 20.

4. EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE TALKED TO "HET PAROOL" REPORTER RESPONSIBLE FOR STORY, AND IT IS CLEAR THAT SOURCE FOR MUCH OF IT WAS DEN UYL HIMSELF. ACCORDING TO REPORTER, WHO ASSURED US THAT HE HAS NOT SEEN DONNER COMMISSIONS FINAL DOCUMENT, THERE IS NO "PROOF" OF CULPABILITY ON PART OF PRINCE, BUT NEITHER COULD CHARGES BE DISPROVED. THE REPORT DOES APPARENTLY DISCLOSE HARD FACTS ABOUT AN "AMAZING WEB OF RELATIONSZ WHICH THE PRINCE MAINTAINS. JOURNALIST WRITES THAT PRINCE WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE FORCE TO GET RID OF A NUMBER OF CLOSE ADVISORS.

5. DUTCH PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY NERVOUS ABOUT PRINCE BERNHARD AFFAIRS AS DATE FOR PUBLICATION OF REPORT AND GOVERNMENTS RECOMMENDATIONS DRAW NEAR. CHANCE FOR LEAKS OF REPORT ARE ALSO INCREASING AS LARGER NUMBER OF PERSONS GAIN ACCESS TO IT. IN ATTEMPT MINIMIZE DANGER, MOST DUTCH CABINET MEMBERS HAVE ONLY BEEN PERMITTED TO READ IT IN CABINET ROOM. SOME QUESTION STILL EXISTS ABOUT WHETHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DONNER COMMISSIONS ENTIRE REPORT INCLUDING APPENDICES WILL BE MADE PUBLIC. PRIMIN HAS AGAIN SAID THAT DISCLOSURE OF SOME MATERIAL WILL DEPEND UPON THE OUTCOME OF DISCUSSIONS WITH US DEPT OF JUSTICE, NOTING THAT "IN PRINCIPLE EVERYTHING MAY BE PUBLISHED, BUT HOW FAR DOES THIS GO?" "HET PAROOL" REPORTER INDICATES THAT WHILE NO DOCUMENTS EXIST HICH DEFINITELY ESTABLISH FACTS (AND INDEED CHURCH COMMITTEE STAFF AND FORMER LOCKHEED PRESIDENT KOTCHIAN REPORTEDLY TOLD DONNER COMMISSION

THAT THEY ONLY HAD "HEARSAY" EVIDENCE), SOME DOCUMENT CONTAINED
IN APPENDIX TO REPORT APPARENTLY ARE DAMAGING TO PRINCE.

6. QUEEN AND PRINCE BERNHARD RETURNED FROM VACATION IN ITALY
AUG 23. SHE IS EXPECTED CONSULT WITH GOVERNMENT THIS WEEK
ON FINAL REPORT TO PARLIAMENT. DUTCH CABINET SCHEDULE CALLS
FOR A NUMBER OF SESSIONS THIS WEEK TO DRAFT QUEEN'S SEPT 21
THRONE SPEECH, BUT MOST OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT MAJOR ITEM OF
BUSINESS WILL BE BERNHARD AFFAIR.
BROWN

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